

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Representative Michael Nelson, Chair Labor and Industry Finance and Policy Committee Minnesota House of Representatives 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Chair Nelson and Members of the Committee,

With over 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is the leading organization representing professional nursing across Minnesota. As leaders in labor and health care, we are a voice for hospital nurses across the state on issues related to the health and well-being of the public as well as labor.

Nurses have one primary concern: to ensure quality care for patients, which starts at the bedside and extends into our communities. MNA supports collective bargaining rights and access to union membership to all workers and opposes efforts by employers to coerce workers into forgoing their bargaining rights. As a practice, captive audience meetings are deployed to scare workers and intimidate them from organizing.

Whether the mandatory nature of a meeting to suppress workers rights is implied or if it is explicitly stated by the employer, such behaviors need to be further regulated by the state in order to protect workers from such coercion. MNA supports action by the Legislature, including the passage of H.F. 2442, in order to restrict employers from preventing workers from exercising their constitutional rights as workers.

We ask that the Minnesota Legislature pass H.F. 2442 in order to protect workers here in Minnesota.

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